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Weekly Payroll Jobs and Wages in Australia

Experimental weekly estimates on the impact of coronavirus (COVID-19) on payroll jobs and wages, sourced from Single Touch Payroll data

Reference period Week ending 22 August 2020

Released 8/09/2020

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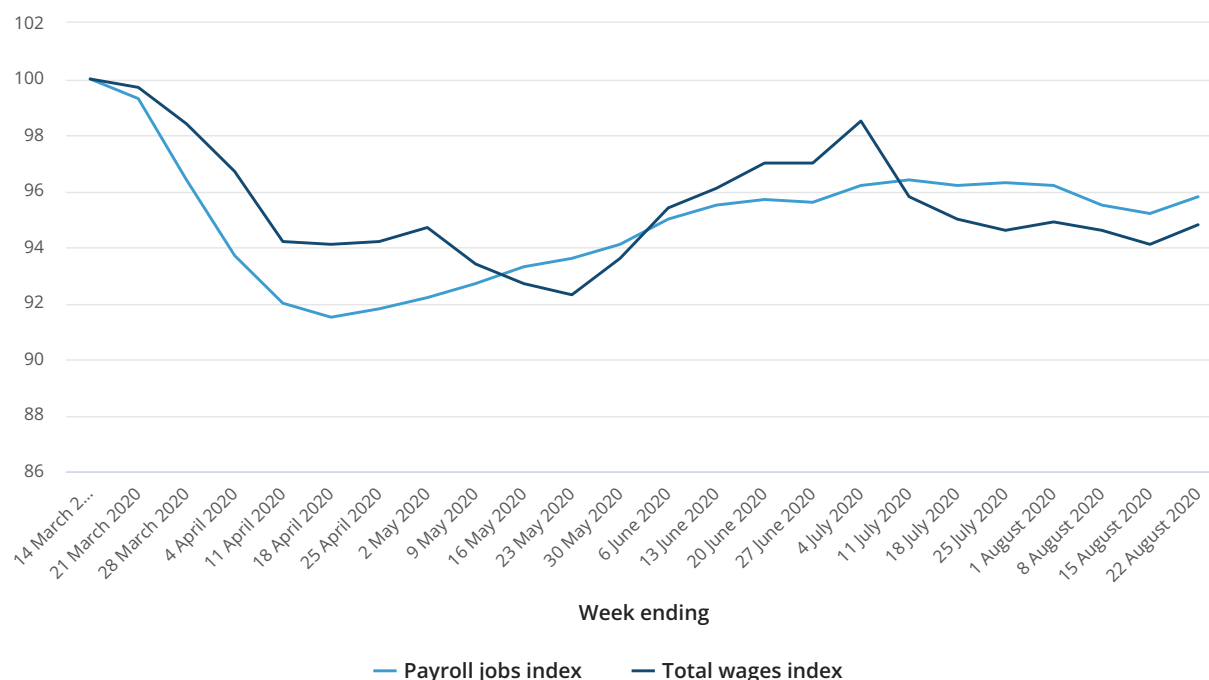
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Key statistics

Between the week ending 14 March 2020 (the week Australia recorded its 100th confirmed COVID-19 case) and the week ending 22 August 2020:

- Payroll jobs decreased by 4.2%
- Total wages decreased by 5.2%

Graph 1 - Payroll jobs and total wages, indexed to the week ending 14 March 2020



a. Care should be exercised when focusing on the most recent movements in payroll jobs and wages. For more information, please see the Data Limitations and Related Revisions technical note. Weekly change data are available in the Data downloads section.

High level analysis suggests that there were approximately 447 000 fewer payroll jobs in STP-enabled businesses on 22 August 2020 than on 14 March 2020.

Key COVID-19 dates:

- 22 March: Prime Minister announces Stage 2 lock down changes, which are progressively implemented
- 30 March: Prime Minister announces JobKeeper program
- 8 July: Stay at Home restrictions commence for metropolitan Melbourne and Mitchell Shire
- 12 July: Early Childhood Education and Care Relief Package ceased
- 20 July: Altered eligibility for JobKeeper payments for child care providers in place
- 5 August: Stage 4 restrictions in metropolitan Melbourne and stage 3 restrictions in regional Victoria commence

State and territory

Since the week ending 14 March 2020 (the week Australia recorded its 100th confirmed COVID-19 case) the largest changes were:

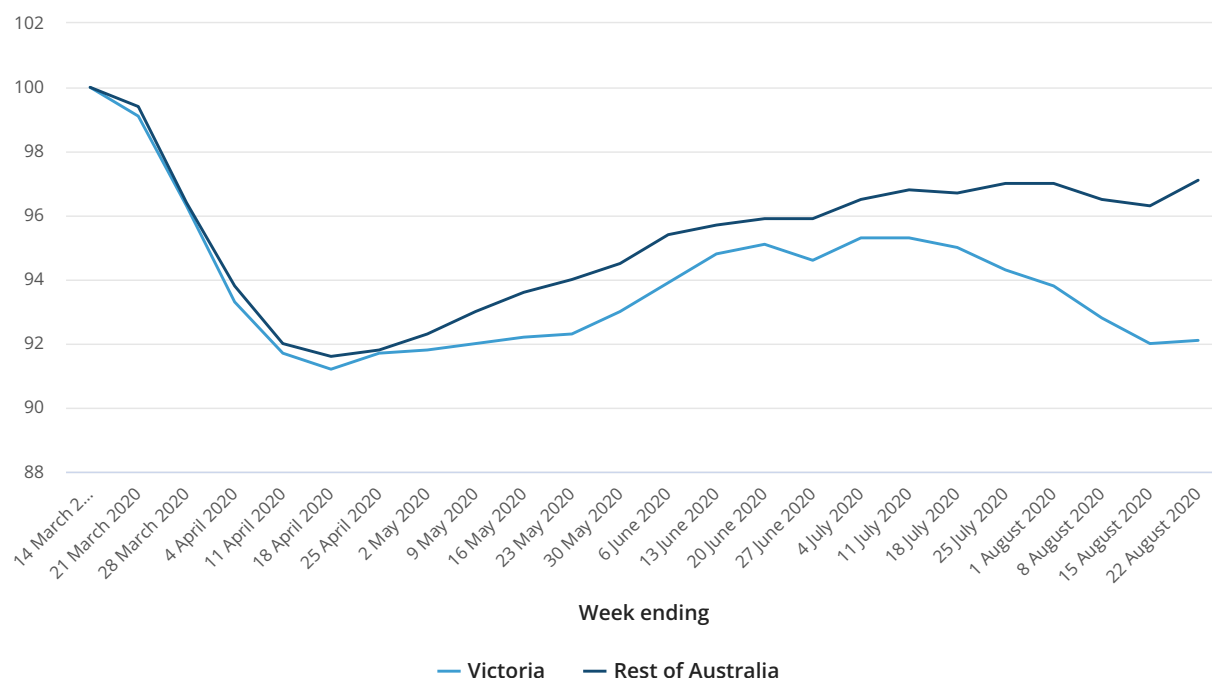
- Payroll jobs : Victoria decreased by 7.9% and Tasmania decreased by 4.1%
- Total wages : Victoria decreased by 6.2% and New South Wales decreased by 5.6%

Table 1 - Percentage change by states and territories

	Payroll jobs		Total wages	
	Change between 8 August and 22 August (a)	Change between 14 March and 22 August	Change between 8 August and 22 August (a)	Change between 14 March and 22 August
New South Wales	0.7%	-3.2%	0.4%	-5.6%
Victoria	-0.7%	-7.9%	-0.6%	-6.2%
Queensland	0.3%	-3.2%	0.2%	-4.2%
South Australia	1.1%	-2.8%	0.8%	-2.9%
Western Australia	0.7%	-1.0%	1.2%	-5.4%
Tasmania	1.3%	-4.1%	1.0%	-4.4%
Northern Territory	0.3%	-1.1%	1.3%	-0.2%
Australian Capital Territory	0.1%	-4.0%	-1.0%	-3.5%
Australia	0.3%	-4.2%	0.2%	-5.2%

a. Care should be exercised when focusing on the most recent movements in payroll jobs and wages. For more information, please see the Data Limitations and Related Revisions technical note. Weekly change data are available in the Data downloads section.

Graph 2 - Payroll jobs by selected geography, indexed to the week ending 14 March 2020 (a)



a. Care should be exercised when focusing on the most recent movements in payroll jobs. For more information, please see the Data Limitations and Related Revisions technical note.

Sex and age group

Sex

Since the week ending 14 March 2020 (the week Australia recorded its 100th confirmed COVID-19 case) the largest changes were:

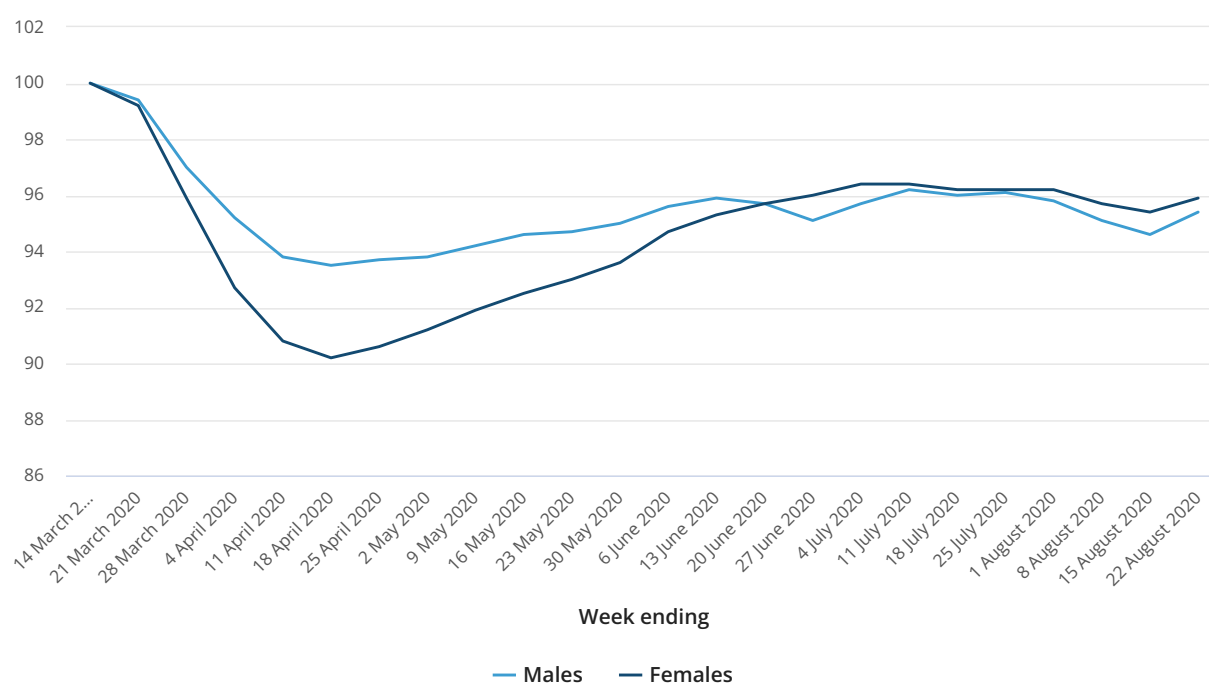
- Payroll jobs : Those worked by males decreased by 4.6% and those worked by females decreased by 4.1%
- Total wages : Payments to males decreased by 7.7% and payments to females decreased by 1.8%

Table 2 - Percentage change by sex

	Payroll jobs		Total wages	
	Change between 8 August and 22 August (a)	Change between 14 March and 22 August	Change between 8 August and 22 August (a)	Change between 14 March and 22 August
Males	0.3%	-4.6%	0.0%	-7.7%
Females	0.2%	-4.1%	0.5%	-1.8%
All persons	0.3%	-4.2%	0.2%	-5.2%

a. Care should be exercised when focusing on the most recent movements in payroll jobs and wages. For more information, please see the Data Limitations and Related Revisions technical note. Weekly change data are available in the Data downloads section.

Graph 3 - Payroll jobs by sex, indexed to week ending 14 March 2020 (a)



a. Care should be exercised when focusing on the most recent movements in payroll jobs. For more information, please see the Data Limitations and Related Revisions technical note. Weekly change data are available in the Data downloads section.

Age group

Since the week ending 14 March 2020 (the week Australia recorded its 100th confirmed COVID-19 case), the largest changes were:

- Payroll jobs : Those worked by people aged 70 and over decreased by 10.9% and those worked by people aged 20-29 decreased by 6.6%
- Total wages : Payments to people aged under 20 increased by 22.4% and payments to people aged 70 and over decreased by 8.0%

Table 3 - Percentage change by age group (a)

	Payroll jobs		Total wages	
	Change between 8 August and 22 August (a)	Change between 14 March and 22 August	Change between 8 August and 22 August (a)	Change between 14 March and 22 August
Aged under 20	1.7%	-1.9%	3.9%	22.4%
20-29 year olds	0.0%	-6.6%	0.1%	-1.2%
30-39 year olds	0.3%	-3.1%	0.3%	-4.8%
40-49 year olds	0.6%	-2.1%	0.5%	-6.7%
50-59 year olds	0.6%	-2.1%	0.3%	-6.6%
60-69 year olds	0.4%	-5.3%	-0.3%	-7.5%
Aged 70 years and over	0.0%	-10.9%	-0.8%	-8.0%
All persons	0.3%	-4.2%	0.2%	-5.2%

a. Care should be exercised when focusing on the most recent movements in payroll jobs and wages. For more information, please see the Data Limitations and Related Revisions technical note. Weekly change data are available in the Data downloads section.

Industry

Since the week ending 14 March 2020 (the week Australia recorded its 100th confirmed COVID-19 case) the largest changes were:

- Payroll jobs : Accommodation and food services decreased by 21.1% and Arts and recreation services decreased by 14.3%
- Total wages : Mining decreased by 17.7% and Accommodation and food services decreased by 13.9%

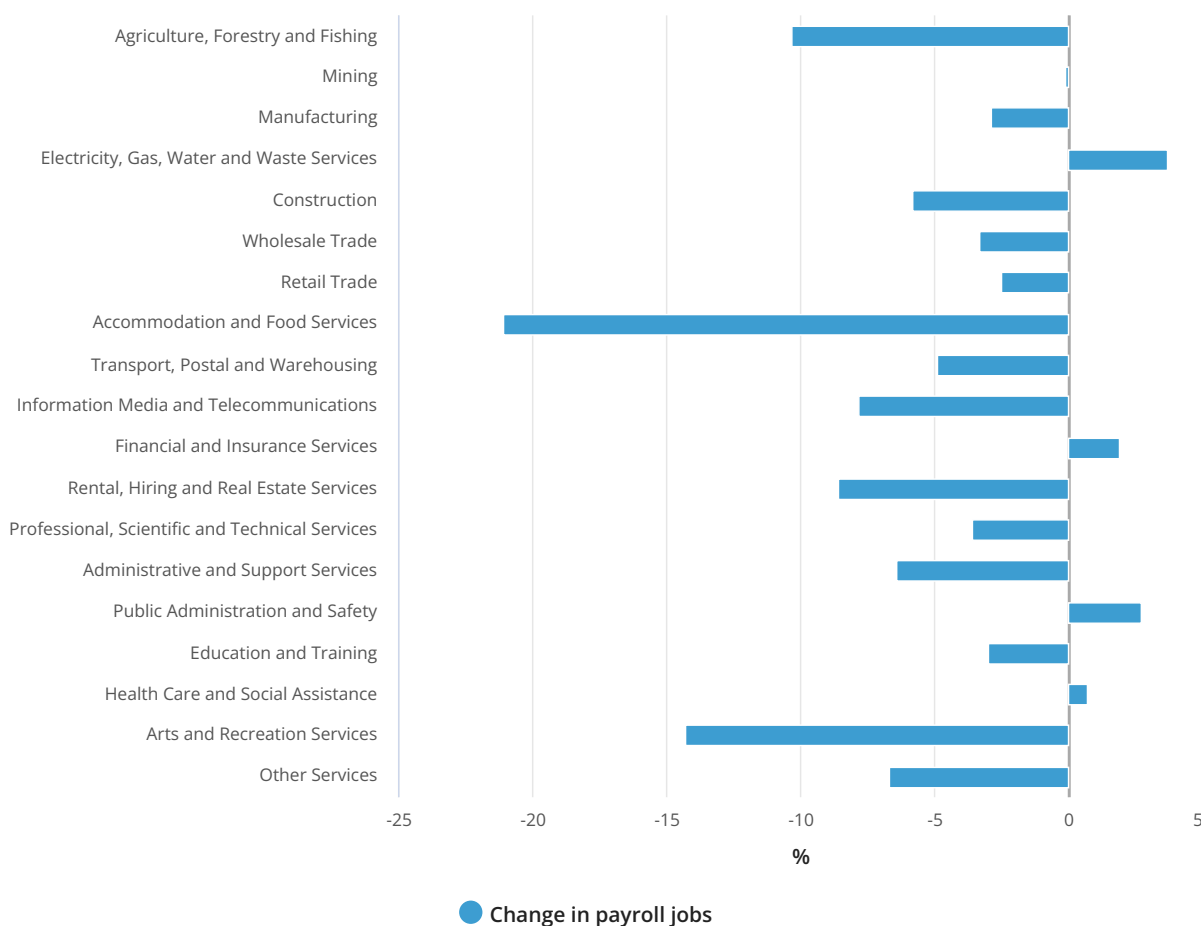
Table 4 - Percentage change by Industry

	Payroll jobs		Total wages	
	Change between 8 August and 22 August (a)	Change between 14 March and 22 August	Change between 8 August and 22 August (a)	Change between 14 March and 22 August
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	-1.7%	-10.3%	-1.2%	-8.2%
Mining (b)	0.6%	-0.1%	2.5%	-17.7%
Manufacturing	1.0%	-2.9%	0.9%	-8.9%
Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services	1.4%	3.7%	1.1%	1.8%
Construction	-1.0%	-5.8%	-3.4%	-9.4%
Wholesale Trade	1.2%	-3.3%	1.1%	-9.7%
Retail Trade	1.0%	-2.5%	-2.9%	-2.6%
Accommodation and Food Services	-0.9%	-21.1%	1.6%	-13.9%
Transport, Postal and Warehousing	0.1%	-4.9%	1.2%	-8.9%
Information Media and Telecommunications	0.0%	-7.8%	2.0%	0.2%
Financial and Insurance Services	1.3%	1.9%	1.0%	-7.3%
Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services	-0.1%	-8.6%	-0.7%	-10.4%
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	0.2%	-3.6%	-0.2%	-6.8%
Administrative and Support Services	-0.1%	-6.4%	0.5%	-5.2%
Public Administration and Safety	0.5%	2.7%	0.6%	-1.1%
Education and Training	2.3%	-3.0%	2.1%	0.2%
Health Care and Social Assistance	-0.6%	0.7%	0.2%	3.3%
Arts and Recreation Services	0.8%	-14.3%	3.2%	-6.9%
Other Services	-1.2%	-6.7%	0.0%	-0.4%
All Industries	0.3%	-4.2%	0.2%	-5.2%

a. Care should be exercised when focusing on the most recent movements in payroll jobs and wages. Weekly change data are available in the Data downloads section.

b. The Mining industry wages estimates in March may include annual bonuses. Please refer to the seasonality section of the Data Limitations and Related Revisions technical note for further information.

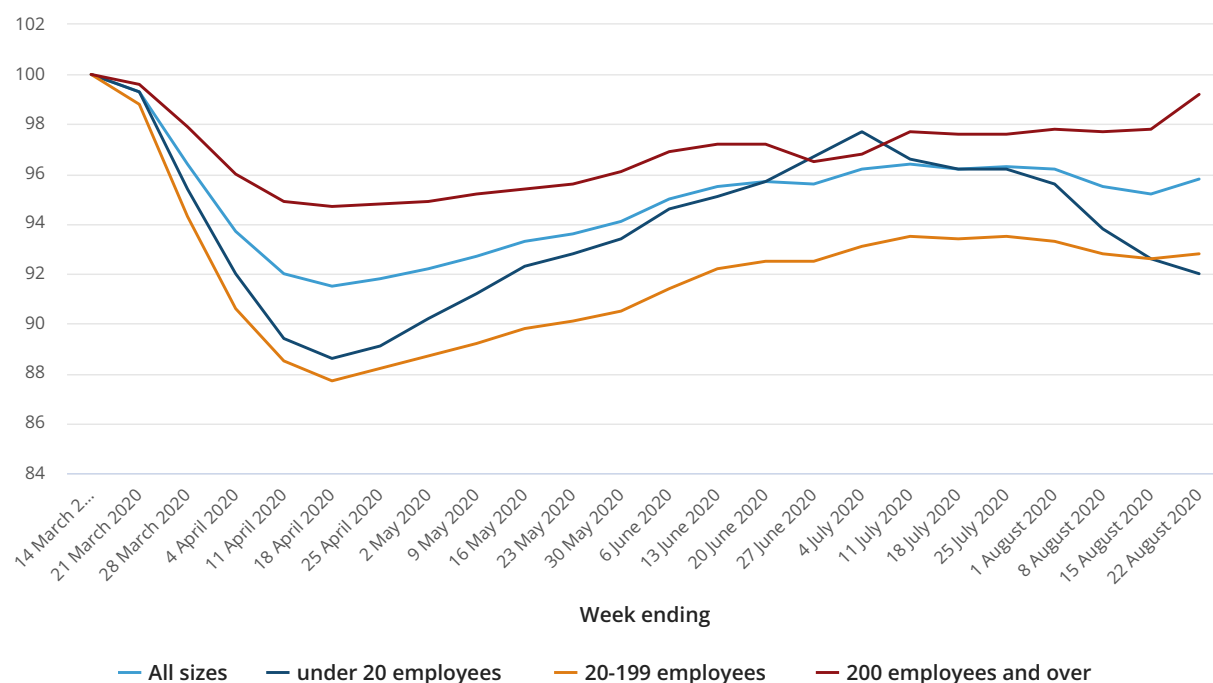
Graph 4 - Percentage change in payroll jobs by industry between 14 March 2020 and 22 August 2020



Employment size

The following experimental estimates present payroll jobs by employment size between the week ending 14 March 2020 (i.e. the week Australia recorded its 100th confirmed COVID-19 case) and the week ending 22 August 2020.

Graph 5 - Payroll jobs by employment size, indexed to week ending 14



- a. Excludes a small number of businesses reporting in STP where employment size information was unable to be sourced from the ABS Business Register.
- b. Care should be exercised when focusing on the most recent movements in payroll jobs. For more information, please see the Data Limitations and Related Revisions technical note.

Table 5 - Percentage change in payroll jobs by state and territory, by employment size as at 14 March 2020 (a)

	Change between 8 August and 22 August (b)	Change between 14 March and 22 August
Under 20 employees	-1.9%	-8.0%
New South Wales	-1.8%	-8.5%
Victoria	-3.4%	-12.6%
Queensland	-1.2%	-4.7%
South Australia	-1.1%	-4.1%
Western Australia	-1.3%	-4.0%
Tasmania	0.1%	-6.9%
Northern Territory	-1.6%	-3.3%
Australian Capital Territory	-2.7%	-8.0%
20-199 employees	0.0%	-7.2%
New South Wales	0.6%	-5.7%
Victoria	-1.0%	-12.6%
Queensland	0.2%	-4.9%
South Australia	0.4%	-5.0%
Western Australia	0.1%	-3.3%
Tasmania	0.6%	-7.4%
Northern Territory	0.8%	-3.5%
Australian Capital Territory	-0.3%	-7.2%
200 employees and over	1.5%	-0.8%
New South Wales	2.0%	0.7%
Victoria	0.7%	-3.1%
Queensland	1.1%	-1.7%
South Australia	2.8%	-0.7%
Western Australia	1.8%	1.4%
Tasmania	2.5%	-0.4%
Northern Territory	1.0%	1.6%
Australian Capital Territory	1.2%	-1.6%

a. Excludes a small number of businesses reporting in STP where employment size information was unable to be sourced from the ABS Business Register.

b. Care should be exercised when focusing on the most recent movements in payroll jobs. For more information, please see the Data Limitations and Related Revisions technical note.

Employment size source

Employment size variables were determined from [ABS Business Register \(https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/dossbytitle/AC79D33ED6045E88CA25706E0074E77A?OpenDocument\)](https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/dossbytitle/AC79D33ED6045E88CA25706E0074E77A?OpenDocument) data. The ABS Business Register is populated using administrative data from the Australian Business Register (ABR) and business data from the Australian Tax Office (ATO). Data on the structures of large and complex businesses are also collected by ABS. The is updated regularly and a frame of business, containing business characteristic information, is produced quarterly for use in the production of statistics. The March 2020 quarterly frame was used to determine employment size for businesses reporting their payroll via STP and subsequently allocate their reported payroll jobs against. Once a payroll job is allocated to an employment size category, it is held constant against that category over time.

By using the March 2020 quarter frame and holding employment size categorisation constant, the ABS is able to present information about the change in payroll jobs based on the employment size of businesses before Australia recorded its 100th confirmed COVID-19 case on 14 March 2020.

Statistical Area 4 (SA4) - Payroll jobs

Payroll jobs by Statistical Area 4 (SA4) estimates will be next updated through to the week ending 5 September as part of the release on Wednesday 23 September 2020.

The time series estimates up to the week ending 8 August 2020 (as released on 26 August) are available via Table 5 in the Data downloads section, presented as index values.

Statistical Area Level 4 (SA4) regions are specifically designed to reflect labour markets within each state and territory within population limits. In regional areas, SA4s tend to have lower populations (100,000 to 300,000), while in metropolitan areas, SA4s tend to have larger populations (300,000 to 500,000).

For more information, see the [Australian Statistical Geography Standard \(ASGS\): Volume 1 – Main Structure and Greater Capital City Statistical Areas \(https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/ProductsbyCatalogue/871A7FF33DF471FBCA257801000DCD5F?OpenDocument\)](https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/ProductsbyCatalogue/871A7FF33DF471FBCA257801000DCD5F?OpenDocument).

Industry sub-division - Payroll jobs

Payroll jobs by Industry sub-division estimates updated through to the week ending 22 August 2020 were added to this release on Wednesday 9 September 2020.

The time series estimates up to the week ending 22 August 2020 are available via Table 6 in the Downloads tab, presented as index values.

The sub-division level is the second broadest grouping of industries within the Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification. Industry sub-divisions are built up from the industry groups which, in turn, are built up from industry classes.

For more, information see the [Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification](https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/1292.0) (<https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/1292.0>).

Table 6 - Percentage change in payroll jobs by Industry and sub-division (a)

	14 March to 22 August (Change since 100th case of COVID-19)	25 July to 22 August (monthly change)
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	-10.3%	-4.5%
Agriculture	-10.9%	-4.7%
Aquaculture (b)	-6.6%	-0.8%
Forestry and Logging	-8.1%	-4.1%
Fishing, Hunting and Trapping (b)	-16.5%	-11.6%
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing Support Services (b)	-8.5%	-3.9%
Mining	-0.1%	0.5%
Coal Mining	0.4%	1.4%
Oil and Gas Extraction (b)	-2.1%	1.2%
Metal Ore Mining (b)	-0.4%	1.0%
Non-metallic Mineral Mining and Quarrying	0.4%	0.7%
Exploration and Other Mining Support Services	0.7%	-1.8%
Manufacturing	-2.9%	0.1%
Food Product Manufacturing	-3.2%	0.2%
Beverage and Tobacco Product Manufacturing	-11.4%	0.0%
Textile, Leather, Clothing and Footwear Manufacturing	-7.9%	-0.5%
Wood product Manufacturing	-3.4%	-2.0%
Pulp, Paper and Converted Paper Product Manufacturing	-8.6%	-0.8%
Printing (including the reproduction of recorded media)	-5.0%	-1.0%
Petroleum and Coal Product Manufacturing	-2.5%	2.1%
Basic Chemical and Chemical Product Manufacturing	9.7%	1.4%
Polymer Product and Rubber Product Manufacturing	-0.7%	0.3%
Non-metallic Mineral Product Manufacturing	-4.9%	0.1%
Primary Metal and Metal Product Manufacturing	-0.8%	1.1%
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	-2.9%	-0.2%
Transport Equipment Manufacturing	-3.9%	1.6%
Machinery and Equipment Manufacturing	-1.8%	-0.2%
Furniture and Other Manufacturing	-5.3%	-2.2%
Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services	3.7%	1.1%
Electricity Supply	6.7%	1.2%

	14 March to 22 August (Change since 100th case of COVID-19)	25 July to 22 August (monthly change)
Gas Supply	12.8%	1.2%
Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage Services	2.9%	2.4%
Waste Collection, Treatment and Disposal Services	-0.7%	-0.1%
Construction	-5.8%	-3.1%
Building Construction	-2.4%	-3.8%
Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction	-9.9%	0.7%
Construction Services	-5.9%	-3.6%
Wholesale	-3.3%	-0.2%
Basic Material Wholesaling	-2.3%	0.4%
Machinery and Equipment Wholesaling	-1.0%	0.9%
Motor Vehicle and Motor Vehicle Parts Wholesaling	-4.5%	0.0%
Grocery, Liquor and Tobacco Product Wholesaling	-6.2%	-1.5%
Other Goods Wholesaling	-5.7%	-1.5%
Commission-based Wholesaling	-2.0%	-1.9%
Retail trade	-2.5%	1.0%
Motor Vehicle and Motor Vehicle Parts Retailing	-3.8%	1.5%
Fuel Retailing	6.2%	0.2%
Food Retailing	-0.3%	1.5%
Other Store-based Retailing	-3.5%	0.9%
Non-Store Retailing and Retail Commission Based Buying and/or Selling	-7.3%	-2.3%
Accommodation and Food Services	-21.1%	-4.8%
Accommodation	-22.2%	-1.4%
Food and Beverage Services	-20.9%	-5.2%
Transport, Postal and Warehousing	-4.9%	0.4%
Road Transport	-4.9%	0.0%
Rail Transport (b)	-0.3%	-1.5%
Water Transport (b)	-17.3%	-8.9%
Air and Space Transport	-8.0%	0.9%
Other Transport	-16.8%	-1.2%
Postal and Courier Pick-up and Delivery Services	-1.8%	0.9%
Transport Support Services	-5.1%	2.3%

	14 March to 22 August (Change since 100th case of COVID-19)	25 July to 22 August (monthly change)
Warehousing and Storage Services	-4.7%	1.1%
Information, Media and Telecommunications	-7.8%	-1.4%
Publishing (except Internet and Music Publishing)	-10.6%	-1.5%
Motion Picture and Sound Recording Activities	-21.5%	-1.2%
Broadcasting (except Internet)	-10.2%	-2.0%
Internet Publishing and Broadcasting	-3.9%	-3.2%
Telecommunications Services	-0.6%	-1.5%
Internet Service Providers, Web Search Portals and Data Processing Services	-2.5%	-1.2%
Library and Other Information Services	-2.7%	3.5%
Financial and Insurance Services	1.9%	-0.1%
Finance	2.6%	1.0%
Insurance and Superannuation Funds	-1.0%	-0.5%
Auxiliary Finance and Insurance Services	2.1%	-1.4%
Rental, Hiring and Leasing Services	-8.6%	-1.6%
Rental and Hiring Services (except Real Estate)	-5.2%	0.1%
Property Operators and Real Estate Services	-10.2%	-2.4%
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	-3.6%	-1.8%
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services (except Computer System Design and Related Services)	-4.1%	-1.7%
Computer System Design and Related Services	-1.9%	-2.2%
Administrative and Support Services	-6.4%	-0.7%
Administrative Services	-6.7%	-0.2%
Building Cleaning, Pest Control and Other Support Services	-4.8%	-3.0%
Public Administration and Safety	2.7%	0.9%
Public Administration	3.6%	1.2%
Public Order, Safety and Regulatory Services	0.4%	0.2%
Education and Training	-3.0%	4.1%
Preschool and School Education	-1.8%	4.1%
Tertiary Education	-2.4%	6.0%
Adult, Community and Other Education	-13.1%	-2.8%
Health Care and Social Assistance	0.7%	-0.5%
Hospitals	3.9%	0.5%

	14 March to 22 August (Change since 100th case of COVID-19)	25 July to 22 August (monthly change)
Medical and Other Health Care Services	-3.2%	-2.7%
Residential Care Services	1.1%	1.1%
Social Assistance Services	-0.1%	-0.9%
Arts and Recreation Services	-14.3%	-0.5%
Heritage Activities	-3.2%	0.0%
Creative and Performing Arts Activities	-23.8%	1.0%
Sports and Recreation Activities	-15.9%	-0.8%
Gambling Activities	-7.3%	-0.6%
Other Services	-6.7%	-2.8%
Repair and Maintenance	-4.1%	-2.7%
Personal and Other Services	-8.0%	-2.9%
Private Households Employing Staff and Undifferentiated Goods and Service Producing Activities of Household for Own Use (b)	9.1%	4.6%
All industries	-4.2%	-0.5%

a. Industry subdivision level estimates are subject to a higher degree of reporting volatility and revisions than industry division level estimates.

b. Particular care should be exercised in using this estimate. Based on previously released data, it has been found to be subject to greater revision in subsequent releases.

Data downloads

I-note

These downloads are currently available in an Excel file format that may not be accessible for users of assistive devices, such as screen readers. [Contact us](#) (<mailto:labour.statistics@abs.gov.au>) and we can discuss the best way to meet your needs.

Table 1: National spotlight

↓ [Download XLSX](#)
[83.69 KB]

Table 2: State and territory spotlight

↓ [Download XLSX](#)
[364.53 KB]

Table 3: Industry spotlight

↓ [Download XLSX](#)
[652.3 KB]

Table 4: Payroll jobs and wages indexes

↓ [Download XLSX](#)
[1.77 MB]

Table 5: Statistical Area 4 - Payroll jobs index

Payroll jobs index by Statistical Area Level 4 (SA4) are now released independently in this data cube. Payroll jobs index by Industry subdivision now appear in Table 6.

↓ [Download XLSX](#)
[218.45 KB]

Table 6: Industry subdivision - Payroll jobs index

Payroll jobs index by Industry subdivision are now released independently in this data cube.

↓ [Download XLSX](#)
[256.82 KB]

All data cubes

↓ [Download ZIP](#)
[2.09 MB]

History of changes

Show all

09/09/2020 - Updated estimates of Jobs by Industry subdivision and associated datacube added.

Previous catalogue number

This release previously used catalogue number 6160.0.55.001.

Methodology

[Weekly Payroll Jobs and Wages in Australia methodology, Week ending 22 August 2020](#)